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THURSDAY
AUGUST 12, 1954

Tommy and I went over to see Doug Dillon this morning. He had just returned from a call on the Prime Minister. Mendès told him he hoped to have a final text of what he would propose at Brussels ready for dissemination to the Governments concerned on Saturday or Sunday.

Mendès then came to the main point of the interview, namely, it is his desire not to have the recent Russian note suggesting a four-power meeting answered before September 1, by which time he expected the National Assembly to have passed some sort of EDC legislation on its first reading. He would then suggest -- at least as far as the French Government was concerned -- that if the Russians offered constructive evidence that a meeting could be expected to end in a satisfactory agreement on the German question, such a meeting should take place. This presumably would occur between the first reading in the National Assembly and the time that normally the Council of the Republic would review the Assembly's action. Such a course would no doubt attract many neutralists. The dangers of it are evident. Personally, I feel nothing should be offered to the Russians in the way of a prospective meeting until the French and Italian Parliaments have fully ratified EDC.

I had lunch with Guillaume Guindey, a most intelligent and delightful man. In his spare time, he is studying philosophy, and is thinking seriously of writing a book on what might generally be called "the democratic mystique". He feels the prime requirement of Western civilization is to rally round a new and invigorating philosophy vast numbers of enthusiasts such as the Soviets have attracted through their Communist mystique. He is deeply concerned by the lack of leadership and imagination on the part of the "hierarchy" of the Roman Catholic Church. He considers them reactionary and their policy especially dangerous, since the Church has never adapted itself to modern social conditions.

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We had dinner at the Dillons' tonight with Mathilde and Ed Shea, Susie and Arthur Gardner. The Sheas are making a short business trip in Europe before going to Scotland for grouse shooting, and the Gardners are here for six weeks from their post in Cuba.

At midnight I talked to Harold Callender on the telephone. He [redacted] kindly told me various items of news he had picked up about what was happening in the French Cabinet regarding EDC. His relation confirmed what Tommy had reported during the day. It is still too early to guess which way the cat will jump, but things may be in better shape from a pro-EDC standpoint than they were a few days ago.

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